

University of Alaska Southeast

WHALE SONG

September 13 – 26, 2013

The Official Student Newspaper of UAS

HOW WE
SPENT OUR
SUMMER
VACATION!



Happy Trails:
Hiking Around Juneau
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Immersion into the
French Culture
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Out of the Classroom
and into the Ocean
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ON THE COVER...

We have put together a collage of photos from UAS Students' summer travels. David Miller spent the month of June in France as part of a study abroad immersion program. Andrew Thomason and James Risdon went with their Biology class to Puerto Rico to experience working in the field. Also pictured is a scenic shot of a beach overlook in Puerto Rico and a school of blue tang.

(Photos courtesy of UAS Exchanges & Study Abroad and Heidi Pearson)

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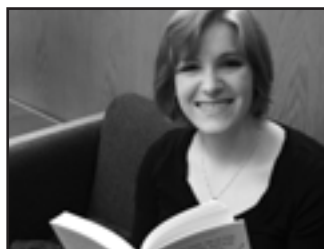
— UAS Answers — Everybody's got one ...

What was the best part of your summer?



*"I hiked the tallest peak in California."
-Ash Morris*

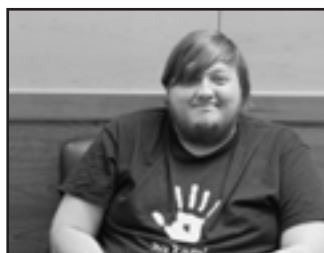
*"My boyfriend came in from the Marine Corps."
-Val Paradis*



*"I got out, was social, and I got to see the sunshine for a month."
-Annie Prysunka*



*"I went to Seattle, went to the aquarium, and saw my grandma. And I got a new guitar."
-Thane Maxwell*



*"I got a job."
-Walter Czopek*



*"I headed down to McCall, Idaho to see friends."
-Katherine West*

A Letter from the Editor

BY CHRYSTAL RANDOLPH

For the UAS Whalesong

Dear reader,

I am thrilled to announce that the Whalesong is back! As you get settled into your classes and rain jackets for this fall semester, I thought it would be an opportune moment to take a glance back and reflect on this summer.

A few of your fellow UAS students used this time to expand their learning horizons. They embarked on incredible adventures to destinations like France and

Puerto Rico in pursuit of their studies. These students were very eager to share their experiences with you, and to do so they have written reflections on their summer travels for your reading pleasure.

I couldn't be happier that this issue is the one to lead us into the new school year, because of the involvement of university students, faculty, and staff in its production. The Whalesong wouldn't be possible without this excellent campus community behind it.

On that note, I want to stress the fact that this newspaper is for you. Because of this, I think it's only fair that you have a

say in what goes in it.

If you are at all interested in publishing your written work, or if you would like some help advertising for an event, I highly encourage you to contact the Whalesong! I am always searching for fresh material to fill our future pages with.

Finally, I would like to thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to pick up and read a copy of The Whalesong.

To contact Chrystal Randolph, email carandolph@uas.alaska.edu.



(Photo courtesy Chrystal Randolph)

Happy Trails: A brief introduction to hiking in Juneau

BY LORI KLEIN

For the UAS Whalesong

Did you know that Juneau has over 200 miles of hiking trails? Some meander short distances through the forest or along the beach. Others lead you away from civilization, to the top of mountains or the face of glaciers. You don't have to be super fit or backcountry savvy to enjoy Juneau's trails. You just have to know your limits and choose wisely.

Since moving to Juneau in 1996, I've always had a copy of "90 Short Walks Around Juneau" by Mary Lou King on my bookshelf. You can find this book locally at all bookstores. I crack it open almost every time I go out. It's rich with information – not just the length and elevation of the trail, but with historical information and notes about wildlife.

There are two great trails near UAS that I wanted to share with you. They are a little different

from each other, and both will give you a flavor for the area.

The Auke Lake Trail was developed in a partnership between the UAS and the City and Borough of Juneau. It can be accessed at two points: 11.3 mile Glacier Highway or at Goat Hill Road off from "Back Loop" Road. If you're on the main campus, simply follow the lower trails system past the Hendrickson Annex and across the bridge. You have to get back on Glacier Highway for a short stretch before you reach the trailhead.

The trail itself is just over a mile long, although you can extend the hike by walking on the highway to reach your starting point. The trail meanders right along the lake, through an ancient forest rich with history. The elevation gain is only 30 feet, and the trail is built up quite well, although you'll want to watch the sloping edges. The trail is unique for its floating dock, and the lake itself is used for a lot of recreational activities

throughout the year.

I love the deep silence of this trail. Someone once told me they thought it was "spooky," but I feel a sense of reverence every time I walk it. It's a great trail to walk in all weather, but I especially like to walk it on sunny or partially sunny evenings as the sun is setting. The light on the lake and through the trees is beautiful. Watch for eagles sitting on the downed trees in the lake. I once walked with a whole family of river otters swimming parallel to me along the shoreline. They even came up out of the lake to check me out. And as always in bear country, be aware.

Spaulding Meadows Trail is one of my favorites and a little more challenging than the Auke Lake Trail. It's only a short walk (or even shorter drive) from main campus. Head "out the road" and watch for the trailhead parking lot on the uphill side of the highway just past Sea View and Bay View streets.

The trail used to be an old

mining road, but is now packed dirt with roots and rocks. Its total elevation is around 1400 feet, however my favorite walk is to the "First Meadow" which is about 500 feet and one mile up. I recommend hiking this trail on a nice day, since the view from First Meadow back down into Auke Bay is stunning. Another short walk option is to turn left when you reach the Auke Nu (John Muir) trailhead sign, and follow the trail a short way to the bridge. My family enjoys sitting along the Waydelich Creek and watching the small waterfalls.

For the more adventuresome hikers, keep following the trail beyond First Meadow ... up and up. At 1150 feet up the trail you'll get to "Second Meadow," and another half mile beyond that you reach Spaulding Meadows. This is "destination" for cross-country skiers in the winter.

Get yourself a copy of "90 Short Walks Around Juneau," grab a friend or two and get out and explore!



A sunny stroll down the Auke Lake Trail.

(Photo courtesy of Lori Klein)

France: A Summer Study Abroad Experience



David Miller posing next to his favorite Monet painting.

BY DAVID MILLER

For the UAS Whalesong

It's raining a little, the thick fog covers everything a few thousand feet beyond the Charles de Gaul Airport, and it's freezing cold here. Famished. I'm starving. I procure a coffee and a croissant, delicious and much needed after my night flight from Reykjavik, Iceland. Standards might've been too high. No sleep on the airplane. This backpack must weigh two-hundred pounds. I should've brushed up on my French. Mass of people. Bustle. How do I get to my train? I wonder if they'll hate me if they recognize my accent? I'll ask someone for help anyway. I'm actually in France.

This summer, I had the opportunity to spend the month of June in the French city of Lille as a study abroad participant in an immersion program through UAS. During that time, I was able to take frequent trips to Belgium, make an abundance of new friendships, learn a bit of the culture and a great deal of the language, but most importantly, I learned what it means to be a global citizen.

Two semesters of French class and plenty of advice from friends

and family isn't near enough to prepare you for living abroad in Europe. Maybe spending twenty-two days in Iceland before my summer program in Lille dampened the culture shock, but nonetheless, it is impossible for anyone not to be a fish out of water when studying abroad. With that in mind, the best advice may be simply, "Expect nothing and use the wise discretion that you were blessed with."

While abroad, I learned that there is no book, no article, and no advice that can quite properly equip you as well as simply being adventurous while not being an idiot. And while the differences between being a global citizen and tourist are remarkably vast, it is immeasurably simple to become lax and fall into the generalization of a "stupid American," that has cultivated disdain between both French and US citizens.

Over the course of the month, these are the observations I made from other students and the points that I attempted to abide by to glean the fullest possible cultural experience.

1. You are an intruder.

As a foreigner, there is a fine line between guest and unwanted stranger. In another person's

home, you abide to their wishes and rules. You are respectful. You respect their traditions and beliefs, and show an interest in them. You respect their differences.

As a global citizen, you have an obligation to take interest in the differences and similarities that create other cultures. From the first, you begin as an intruder. We earn our places as global citizens by respect and interest.

2. Don't be afraid to speak the native language.

While I find it extremely enjoyable to attempt to communicate brokenly, I found many students wary and nervous to fail while communicating with locals. This apprehension, of course, is understandable. However, we have to also understand that it is sign of disrespect to simply expect a person to speak in their non-native tongue to a stranger. Often, a French person will not mind speaking in English, provided that you greet them accordingly and respectfully. More often than not, if you attempt to speak French, they will ask which language you prefer and adjust to match your lingual skill.

3. Foreigners are humans too.

Obvious, yes, but to what extent do we really recognize this as truth? The differences that separate a French person from an American are far slighter than we recognize. What we call strange and separating differences are simply cultural traits that we don't fully understand. If we take the time to excavate and perceive these traits, it is surprising to find that we are really more similar than recognized.

4. Don't judge anything against what you are accustomed to.

Different cultures are going to be different. Difference is not wrong; differences are just dif-

ferent. Cultivating stigmas only creates separation and distaste, widening cultural gaps. Being open minded allows for not only an authentic cultural experience, but is a sign of respect and concern for fellow human beings.

I am a person who values authenticity and genuineness. When I arrived at the Charles de Gaul airport for my month long immersion program, I understood that I was a stranger and an invader of the French culture. With that cognizance, I assumed humility, and attempted to main-

tain it. We should be proud of our cultures; where we are from molds who we are.

As university students, we have a unique opportunity to explore other cultures and learn from our experiences a respect for fellow people and the aspects of their culture that has shaped them. If we refuse to assume humility, we choose to spite those cultures and are so crass as to claim superiority. There is less that separates us as people than we might recognize. Seek out those aspects of culture that separate us and learn to respect.



David Miller busking in France.

Photos courtesy UAS Exchanges & Study Abroad

Out of the classroom and into the ocean: UAS Biology students in Puerto Rico!

For the UAS Whalesong

Professor Heidi Pearson and students traveled to Puerto Rico last summer as part of the Summer Session I course, Special Topics: Tropical Marine and Coastal Ecology (BIOL 393). This field course was offered in conjunction with the non-profit organization, the Marine and Coastal Ecology Research Center. Daily snorkeling excursions to coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea grass beds, and an offshore island enabled students to gain first-hand knowledge of the biodiversity, habitat connectedness, conservation issues, and management challenges in this region. Students received travel support from the UAS Student Government. Below, students Ashley McCarthy, Andrew Thomason, and James Risdon reflect on the course and their experiences in Puerto Rico.

The Tropical Marine and Coastal Ecology class that we took in Puerto Rico blew away our expectations. We woke up everyday to drive to a different part of the island. It was a welcoming environment to learn and share new ideas with our instructor Heidi, field guide Mithriel, and each other as well. We hope any student at UAS that might be interested in this subject takes this opportunity and has as much fun as we did! Below are some of our personal thoughts on the class.

Ashley: “The Tropical Marine and Coastal Ecology class that I took in Puerto Rico was a remarkable experience. I was able to not only learn but I was able to experience everything that was taught. I was even able to snorkel with a nurse shark and two hawksbill sea turtles! I feel more prepared for my career now that I was able to get into

the field and work with people that have the same motives and goals as me. It is expensive but worth every penny. There is a whole world out there waiting to be explored and there is so much more to learn.”

Andrew: “Puerto Rico was so much more than I ever could’ve expected ... Throughout the course, we compared different snorkeling sites across the entire southwest portion of the island, with each site offering new and beautiful studies! I feel that my time there greatly expanded my understanding of tropical ecology, and I learned a great deal from my fellow students and instructors as well. I won’t ever forget jumping in the crystal blue water at Desecheo and swimming with an eight-foot long nurse shark! Puerto Rico has so much to offer- I could spend a lifetime in those waters, and I hope to visit again soon!”

James: “From an ecological stand point, Puerto Rico offers so much for the locals, tourists, marine biologists, and even students learning and conducting research — whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student. What I took away from my experience in Puerto Rico was an expanded knowledge about marine and coastal ecology, how much of an anthropogenic impact (we as humans) have on an ecosystem, what we can do to protect an ecosystem from further destruction, and how important conservation truly is. This class made us question and think in entirely new ways than we ever had before and my eyes were opened to conservation laws/techniques I would had never otherwise considered. Just the amount of wildlife present, even species on the endan-

gered list, was out of the norm from anything I have previously experienced. Puerto Rico offers pristine beaches, ways to observe local marine and coastal wildlife in a safe (for them) environment and exposes you to a drastically different culture than would be experienced in the Continental United States. The Special Topics: Marine and Coastal Ecology Research course offered through the University of Alaska Southeast in conjunction with Texas A&M University’s Marine and Coastal Ecology Research Center in San German, Puerto Rico offers students a once in a lifetime experience to go out in the field and conduct actual biology research (outside of a classroom or laboratory atmosphere) with some of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated faculty and resources that UAS and Texas A&M have to offer ... I strongly recommend that every single biological science student at UAS should strongly consider partaking in this amazing research experience — I say experience instead of class because this is so much more than just a mere “class.”



Group excursion to the island of Desecheo.

Pictured left to right: Heidi Pearson, James Risdon, Ashley McCarthy, Andrew Thomason



Ashley McCarthy holds a conch while snorkeling at Tamarindo.



Ashley McCarthy and Andrew Thomason free dive off the island of Desecheo

photos courtesy of Heidi Pearson

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Evening at Egan: Changing Shorelines, Early Habitations, and Marine Reptiles of Southeast Alaska, 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall (Egan 112). Jim Baichtal, Forest Geologist, Tongass National Forest. The ancient ancestors of marine mammals such as dolphins and killer whales are emerging along with changing sea levels and coastlines due to deglaciation. Jim Baichtal kicks off the series with a fascinating presentation on the discovery of 220 million year old Triassic marine reptile fossils from several localities in Southeastern Alaska, including the recently discovered Thalattosaurus, a fossil marine reptile similar to today's marine iguana. For more information visit <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/eganlecture/index.html>

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
Mountain Bike Race, 12 p.m., Recreation Center. Free for UAS students, faculty, or staff. \$5 entry fee for non-affiliated participants. For more information call 796-6544 or e-mail the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

MONDAY, SEPT. 16
Climbing Wall Open House, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Get approved to climb whenever the REC is open. Meet new climbers - Check

out the climbing movies. For more information call 796-6544 or email the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18
Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center Lunch Seminar, 1 p.m., Forestry Science Lab (Back Loop entrance to campus) (Conference Room). The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center invites you to a brownbag lunchtime seminar series the first and third Wednesday of the month this fall. Stay tuned for more details on our guests and topics. The events will be held in the new Forestry Science Lab conference room from 1-2 o'clock. For more information call 796-6518 or email aaparrish@uas.alaska.edu.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19
Board Game Night, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Dominoes, Jenga, Apples to Apples, Taboo, Sequence, Monopoly- whatever game you enjoy we can play together! For more information call 796-6544 or e-mail the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

Volleyball Serving Contest, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Can you serve to specific locations? Hit the mark! For more information call 796-6544 or e-mail the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20
Evening at Egan: The Alaska Na-

tive Claims Settlement Act and Sealaska Lands Legislation, 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall (Egan 112). Albert Kookesh, Chairman of the Board, Sealaska Corporation, Former State Senator. Forty years after the passage of ANCSA by Congress, Alaska Natives are still waiting for final legislation on land entitlements. A presentation on continued roadblocks faced by Native Corporations when it comes to land rights and the impact on proposed Sealaska Lands Legislation. For more information visit <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/eganlecture/index.html>

Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. The microphone is on the stage. Come share your talents - music, poetry, sing.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
Minute To Win It, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. You have one-minute to complete a designated task! Free for UAS students, faculty, and staff. \$5 for non-affiliated participants. For more information call 796-6544 or e-mail the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

MONDAY, SEPT. 23
Student Government Elections, All Day, Online. All students please vote for your top 3 Senators. Go to: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/student_gov/ and cast your vote. Results will be posted Thursday September 26th by noon. For more information call 796-6517.

Climbing Wall Open House, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Get approved to climb whenever the REC is open. Meet new climbers - Check out the climbing movies. For more information call 796-6544 or email the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24
Student Government Elections, All Day, Online.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25
Student Government Elections, All Day (voting closes at midnight), Online.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26
Salsa Night, 7:30 p.m., Recreation Center. No experience required - come and learn to dance the Salsa and other Latin dances.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27
Evening at Egan: Outdoor Studies Capstone 2013: Ski Mountaineering in Ecuador, 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall (Egan 112). Kevin Krein, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of Outdoor Studies and Students. In January of 2013, students and faculty from the UAS Outdoor Studies Program traveled to Ecuador with the goal of climbing and skiing high altitude peaks. Join us as members of the group share images and video footage from the expedition, discuss the trip, and reflect on the experience. For more information visit <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/eganlecture/index.html>

alaska.edu/eganlecture/index.html
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28
SAA Dinner & Movie: Iron Man 3, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Admission: FREE for SAA members with current-year RED SAA stickers on back of ID, \$5 for Nonmembers & Guests. Dinner included. Contact: 796-6569.

MONDAY, SEPT. 30
Humans vs. Zombies Registration Fall 2013, All Day, Mourant Building 129. Don't forget to register for HvZ this fall semester! Come by the SAB office today! For more information call 796-6325 or send an e-mail to sab@uas.alaska.edu.

Annual Exchange and Study Abroad Fair, 10:30 am, Spike's Café. Speak to and gather information from study abroad program representatives about study away options. Learn what is needed to complete an application, when deadlines occur, and how put your best foot forward as a candidate. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to enhance your academic career! Contact: 796-6455 or exchanges@uas.alaska.edu.

Climbing Wall Open House, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Get approved to climb whenever the REC is open. Meet new climbers - Check out the climbing movies. For more information call 796-6544 or email the Rec Center at rec_center@uas.alaska.edu.

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